GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:319
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
FLUORIDE IN DRINKING WATER
C. SREENIVAASAN;M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of States have been badly affected due to the presence of fluoride in the drinking water;

(b) if so, the details of such States;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared by the Central Government to fight this menace;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 319 FOR 11.12.2002

Based on the fluorine content of the drinking water, fluorosis is a problem in 19 states, which are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Naidu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh.

Fluorosis can only be combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a state subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister`s Gramodya Yojana (PMGY) - Rural Drinking Water for tackling qualit related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Department of Drinking Water Supply is involved in collecting data on Fluorosis endemicity in the states. Along with Department of Drinking Water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ion-meters to different states for estimation of Fluoride in Drinking Water. National Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to Public Health Engineers and medical professionals to generate awareness about Fluorosis and check the spread of Fluorosis in the country.